

To: Town of Arlington

From: Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
Mass Ave/Appleton Street Corridor
Design Team

Project/File: Public Engagement (Spring 2023)
Summary Memorandum

Date: March 17, 2023

Reference: Mass Ave/Appleton Safety + Accessibility Corridor Project

The Town of Arlington and Stantec held a public meeting on March 15th, 2023, where the recommended final design was shown to the public. After the meeting, members of the public were given the chance to respond to the final design as it related to the project goals, via in-person comments left on boards and handouts, as well as an online form. The results from those activities are summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Public Engagement Feedback Summary (Public Meeting and Online Form)		
Issue	Supporting Comments [Number of comments]	Negative/Critiquing Comments [Number of Comments]
Bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for bike lanes included in design [52] Bike crossings and signal at Mass/Forest [4] Bike signals in general [8] Better access to Minuteman Bikeway [4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike lanes and buffers are too narrow [24] Cars might “right hook” into cyclists [10] Turns in bike lane are too abrupt [3] Cyclists travel at unsafe speeds [5] Bike lanes will be unusable with snow [5] Transition to bike lane at eastern end of corridor [1]

Pedestrians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for plaza at closed Appleton Place [16] Support for additional and improved pedestrian crossings [29] Shorter crossing distance at Mass/Forest [9] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better pedestrian protections on Appleton St [1] Signals should be pedestrian-centric (countdowns instead of flashing hand) [7] Flashing beacons or full signal at Lowell St intersection [3] Some crosswalks should be moved (Richardson, Quinn Road) [4] Lighting concerns at funeral home [2] A crosswalk is needed at Foot of the Rocks/Dunkin Donuts [4]
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left turns and traffic speeds are slowed [9] Left turns are protected [3] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More needed to traffic calming/slowing traffic [5] Concerns about signals accommodating congestion [8] No room for trash collection/ deliveries [3]

Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for closing Appleton PI [16] Support for squaring/simplifying intersections (Lowell, Appleton PI, Forest) [24] Support for adding signals to intersections [10] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Against closing Appleton PI [5]
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South side parking isn't needed [6] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve handicap parking on Mass Ave [13] Add parking on Mass Ave/move crosswalks to add parking [4] Preserve access to Appleton St/PI parking [5]
Trees/Greenery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect trees [4] Landscaping and green infrastructure/rain gardens [4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees at Lowell might block sight lines [5] Tree removal [1]
Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for in-lane bus stops [2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try to make bus pullout on south side [1] Bus Service is not improved [1]

Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer for students at Ottoson [5] • Safer for cyclists [30] • Safer for pedestrians [26] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doesn't make corridor a place [2] • Concerns town will prioritize parking over other improvements [16]
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Stantec asked participants whether the presented final design met the project goals laid out in 2022. In the in-person feedback received at the public meeting, **7 participants** said the design met the project goals overall, and **2 participants** said the design did not meet the goals, or otherwise disagreed with the goals in the first place. In the online survey, **43 participants** said the design met the project goals overall, **7 participants** said the design did not meet the goals or disagreed with the goals in the first place, and **3 participants** said the project met some goals but not all.

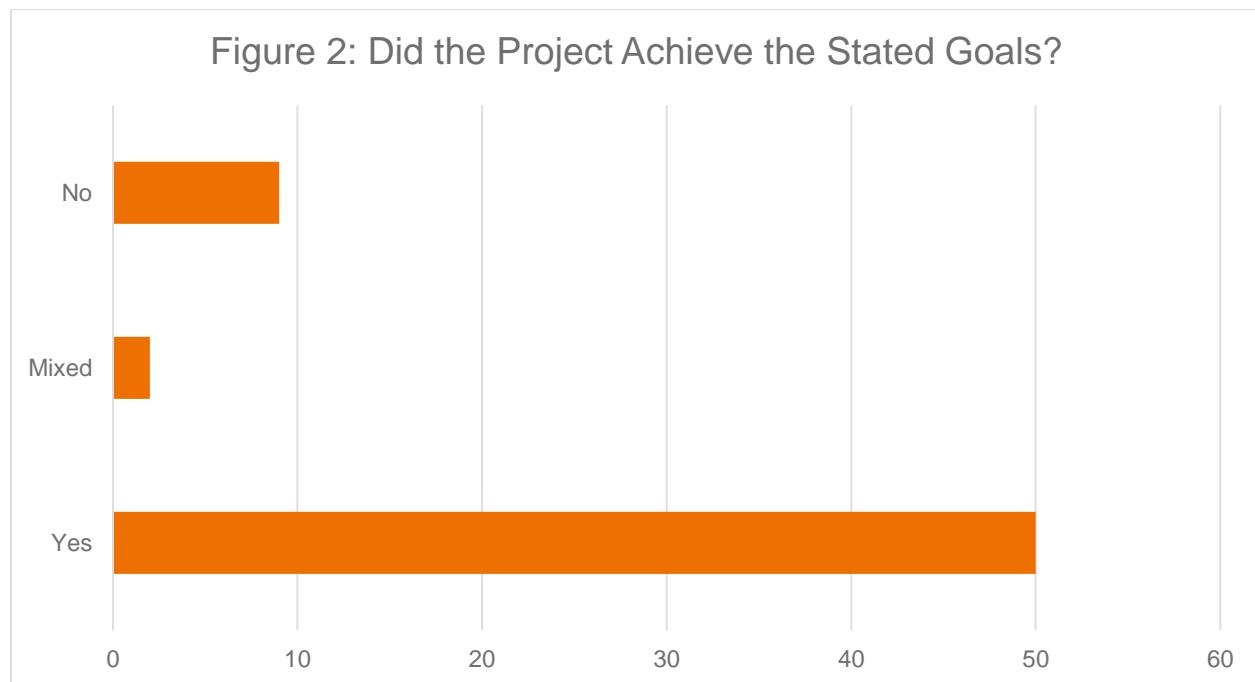


Figure 3: What do you like about the proposed design?

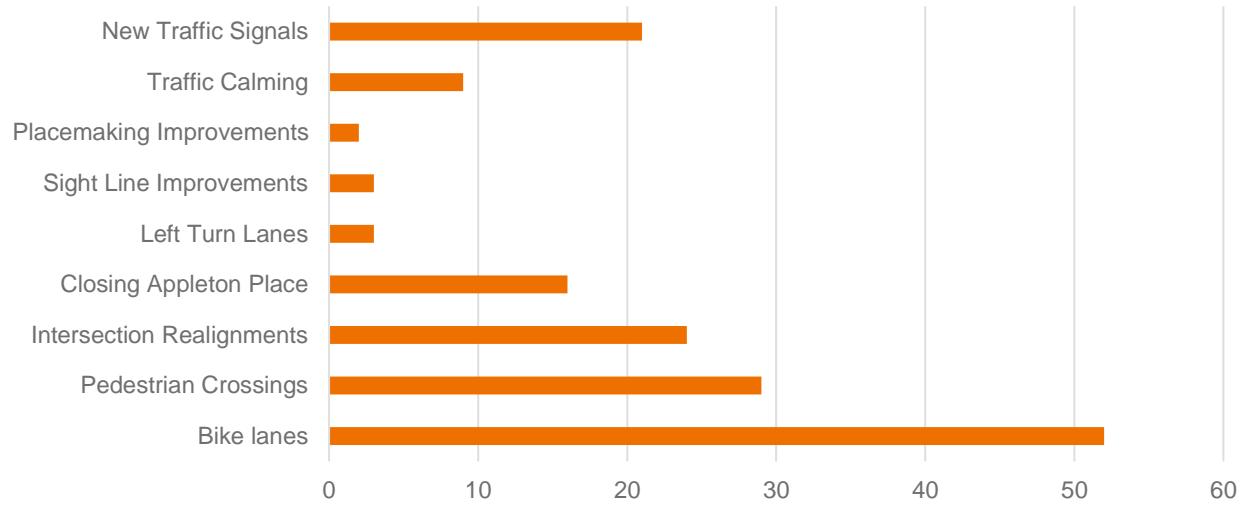
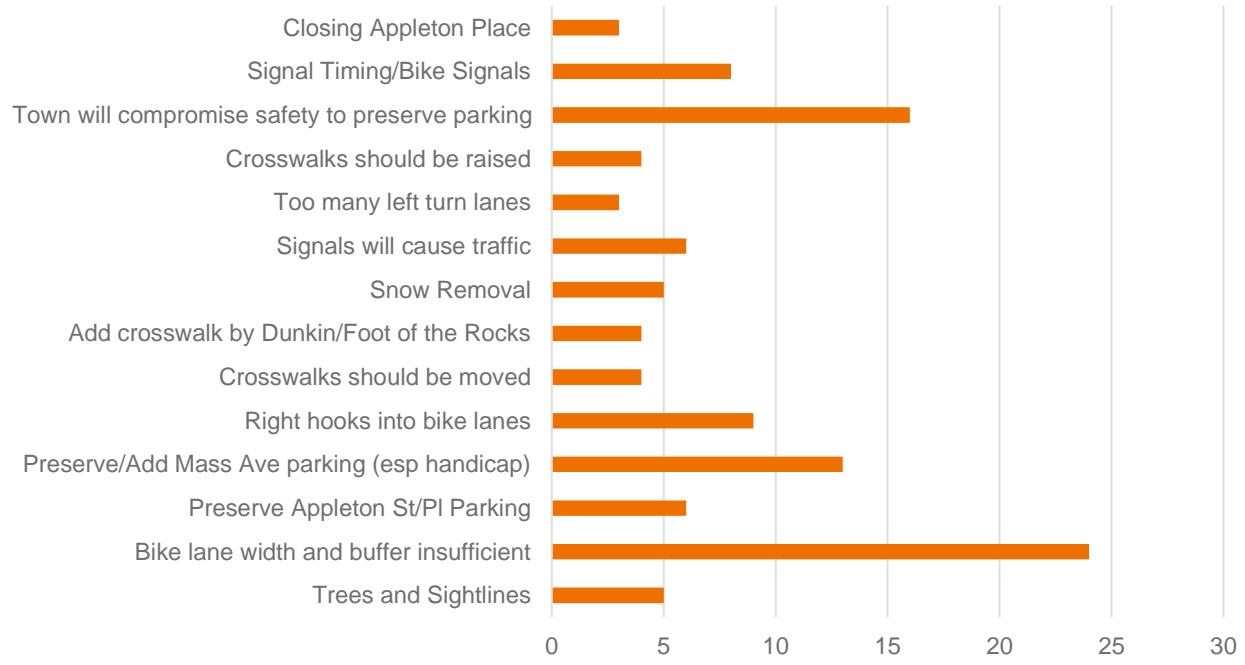


Figure 4: What are your concerns/suggestions for the proposed design?



Some comments referenced specific details of the proposed design at specific locations in the study corridor. Those comments are broken out below for each of the major intersections in the corridor.

Figure 5: Place-Based Comments and Concerns		
Location	Supportive Comments [Number of Comments]	Negative/Critiquing Comments [Number of Comments]
Lowell St/Mass Ave Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for intersection realignment [7] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crosswalk needed near Foot of the Rocks/Dunkin [4] Parking needed for Dunkin/Apartments on Mass Ave south side [2] Raised crossings needed [1]
Mass Ave/Appleton Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing Appleton Place [16] Intersection realignment/simplification [6] Protected and slowed left turns/signal [2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing Appleton Place [3] Preserve Appleton St/Place Parking [6] Signals and Middle School traffic [6] Against allowing left turns onto Appleton St [2]
Forest St/Burton St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for signals/realignment [9] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Against signals at Forest/Burton [1]
Minuteman Trail		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More connectivity/bike lanes on Forest St [3]

Best regards,

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC